उत्तर प्रदेश में एस० टी० डी० सुविधा

4389. **श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय :** क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) उत्तर प्रदेश में कितने नगरों में एस० टी० डी० की सुविधा उपलब्ध हैं;

(ख) चालू वित्त वर्ष के दौरान उक्त राज्य के कितने शहरों में एस० टी० डी० सुविधा प्रदान करने की संभावना है; और

(ग) इस सेवा में सुधार लाने के लिए क्या-क्या कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं ?

विद्युत मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री पी० वी० रंगैय्या नायडू) ।

(क) उत्तर प्रदेश में 156 शहरों, में एस० टी० डी० सुविधा प्रदान की जा चुकी है ।

(ख) चालू वित्त वर्ष के दौरान प्रदेश के 6 शहरों में एस० टी० डी० सुविधा प्रदान किए जाने की योजना है ।

(ग) (i) प्रत्येक सेकेण्डरी स्विचन क्षेत्र में पर्याप्त क्षमता सहित एक इलेटॉनिक ट्रंक आटोमेटिक एक्सचेंज प्रदान करने की योजना है ।

(ii) टी० ए० एक्स० के साथ तहसील मुख्यालयों को जोड़ने के लिए विश्वसनीय संचारण माध्यम की योजना बनाई गई है ।

भारती भुवन पुस्तकालय के संबंध में स्मारक डाक-टिकट

4390. **श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय:** क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) भारती भवन पुस्तकालय, इलाहाबाद के संबंध में स्मारक डाक टिकट जारी करने में विलंब के क्या कारण हैं; और

(ख) इस टिकट को कब तक जारी कर देने की संभावना है ?

विद्युत मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री पी० वी० रंगैय्या नायडू) : (क) और (ख) प्रस्तावकों से डाक-टिकट के लिए अपेक्षित उपयुक्त डिजाइन-सामग्री ना मिल पाने के कारण भारती भवन लाइब्रेरी, इलाहाबाद पर डाक-टिकट को अभी अन्तिम रूप नहीं दिया जा सका है ।

Postal Services in the Country

4391. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY :
SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that inspite of the new system evolved by up-grading the postal services by the postal authorities, there is enormous delay in delivery of the letters by the Postal Department officials in the country ;

(b) whether the Green Post Box System that has been introduced in the Metro Cities is working satisfactorily ; and

(c) whether Government propose to review the working of the Postal services to have efficiency and improvement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) The scheme of expenditious transmission of pin-coded letters posted in Metro city and meant for other Metro cities, introduced from 2nd April, 1994, has helped to speed up delivery of mails in the Metro cities. The metro cities covered under this scheme are Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Hyderabad and Bangalore. Expenditious movement of mails between other cities and towns is also being monitored and ensured.

(b) In the Metro cities, green letter boxes have been installed to enable the public to post mails meant for delivery within the same city so that these can be segregated easily and despatched quickly for delivery within the city. This has helped in speeding up local letters.

(c) A few years ago, Government had set up a High-powered Committee to review and recommend measures for increasing the efficiency of Postal Services. The recommendations of the Committee have been accepted by the Government and a number of recommendations have been implemented. The improvement in the efficiency of Postal Services is a continuous exercise.

Electronic Exchanges Locking System

4392. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Electronic Exchange locking system is not fool proof. as claimed by MTNL ;

(b) whether complaints of excessive billing are on increase despite locking system ; and

(c) whether it is a fact that such tampering is done at the junction box with the connivance of MTNL staff?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) No, Sir. The locking system of electronic exchange is technically fool proof.

(b) No, Sir. The complaints of excessive billing are showing declining trends as may be seen from the data given below :—

Year	Delhi	Bombay
1991-92 . . .	0.38%	0.58%
1992-93 . .	0.37%	0.47%
1993-94 . . .	0.28%	0.32%

(c) Not applicable in view of (a) and (b) above.

Videsh Sanchar Nigam EURO Issue

4393. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to launch Videsh Sanchar Nigam (VSN) Euro issue to attract foreign exchange in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to privatise VSN for this purpose; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Sir, Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (VSNL) has been permitted by the Govt. of India to issue additional equity equivalent to Rs. 20 crores in the international market in the form of Global Depository Receipts.

(b) The road shows for the Euro Issue are currently underway. M/s Solomon Brothers and Kleinwort Benson are the Global Coordinators for the issue. The Euro issue is expected to realise a sum in the range of US $750 million to US $ 1 billion. The proceeds will be used for funding Telecom projects.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Question does not arise in view of reply at 'c' above.

Unearthing Private Telephone Exchange

4394. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that recently a private Telephone Exchange was unearthed functioning in the heart of the national capital illegally in connivance with the MTNL employees;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ;

(c) the losses suffered by MTNL due to this illegal private Telephone Exchange; and

(d) what action Government propose to take to prevent illegal private exchanges coming up in various parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) A group of persons had taken 11 telephone connections at a premises at Hanuman Road, New Delhi and used these telephone lines for providing subsidized international telephone calls. The metering circuit of the telephone lines having STD facility was tampered which resulted in non-billing of the international calls availed on the telephone lines. The suspected telephone lines were kept under observation, the print out of calls made on these telephone lines were studied and surveillance of the suspected location made/kept. Thereafter raids were conducted on 16-2-94 and racket was busted. The case is under further investigation by the CBI for necessary legal action against the racketeers.

(c) Although the Government has suffered losses, assessment of the exact amount of loss is not possible.

(d) Surprise inspections are stepped up and CBI help is being taken wherever necessary. Special investigation cells of CBI are to be set up for metropolitan cities to deal with malpractices. A bill is introduced in Lok Sabha to further amend Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 providing for deterrent penalties against abettors as well as beneficiaries of malpractices like diversion of lines etc.